

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #30
October 23, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- This week the World Health Organization added three cases, all of which were fatal, to the count of human cases of avian influenza (H5N1). All three cases were in residents of Indonesia who resided in three different provinces. Two cases had exposure to dead chickens in their household and/or neighborhood. The source of exposure for the third case is under investigation. The human case count now stands at 256, including 151 fatalities (59%).

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Statewide PanFlu Exercise “FLUEX ‘06” is underway as scheduled, October 23-24. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), many local EOCs, and the VDH Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) will be activated. All local Health Districts are participating as are the Virginia National Guard, several other state agencies, and most of the Commonwealth’s Hospitals. Observers on hand will include representatives of DOD’s new Pandemic Flu Task Force. In addition to tracking statewide PanFlu response efforts, events will include a legal review of Isolation and Quarantine protocols in Alexandria and a Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Exercise in Northern Virginia with our National Capitol Region Partners in DC and MD. Commencing this past weekend and continuing for the next two months, many local Health Districts will be exercising their Mass Vaccination Plans with annual flu vaccine provided for FLUEX ’06.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator gave a presentation on PanFlu Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) at the recent Virginia Municipal League meeting in Virginia Beach.
- Northern Virginia Health Departments will be participating with Metro promoting their Healthy Rider campaign on Monday, Oct. 23. In addition to VDH regional team members, local Medical Reserve Corp volunteers, local health department staff, and Metro employees, Fairfax Health Director, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu will be available to greet Metro riders interested in learning more about reducing the spread of germs and illness. They will be disseminating pandemic flu and hand washing brochures, as well as hand sanitizers, to thousands of Metro riders between 3 and 6 p.m.
- Pandemic Flu planning will be a featured agenda item among state agencies at this week’s Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group (CPWG). Discussion will be facilitated by the VDEM PanFlu Planner.
- Through well received and publicized preparation efforts with local Schools, Pittsylvania-Danville health District Epidemiologist coordinated with the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee to find a family in the health district who has prepared or are preparing for Pandemic Influenza. At the request of the U.S. Department of Education, this family will be interviewed and the interview will be televised nationwide. The show was aired 17 October on the PBS. Fairfax Health Director was a featured Panel Member.
- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit:
<http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>

- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator gave a presentation on Continuity of Operations Planning in a Pandemic at the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference.
- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response has been invited to give a PanFlu Planning Presentation at the upcoming Virginia Association of Counties' Annual Conference.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Eastern Region**
 - Regional Medical Consultant gave a presentation on pandemic influenza and nursing shortages to the Central Michigan University Graduate Nursing Cohort Program at Maryview Hospital.
 - Regional Trainer attended pandemic influenza exercise evaluator training.
 - Regional Medical Consultant gave a pandemic influenza presentation to the Virginian Pilot Corporate Leadership Group.
 - Regional Public Information Officer contacted the local news media about the state pandemic influenza exercise and the news conference scheduled for Oct 23.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Preparing for FluEX 06, especially the isolation and quarantine activity with a local family.
 - Began planning process for a community-wide forum after the first of the year.
 - Brief version of community pandemic flu preparedness plan is being posted on City website.
 - Mayor's Working Group for Pandemic Influenza Planning has given approval of draft of plan for submission to City Council in November.
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - Planner attended last Harrisonburg-Rockingham PanFlu drill planning meeting.
 - Planner attended Bath County LEPC meeting and discussed alternate dispensing methods.
 - Planner met with FLUEx dispensing site management members to discuss last minute issues.
 - Epi attended PanFlu planning meetings at James Madison University.
- **Chesapeake**
 - City PanFlu Task Force meeting. Discussion included review of action items from previous meeting, FluEx-06, and the importance of business COOP development, telecommuting, and public education.
 - Revised Health Department Pandemic Influenza Plan.
 - Emergency Planner and City Emergency Management personnel met to coordinate and finalize City EOC FluEx-06 play.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Health Educator gave a PanFlu presentation to the Chester Civitans.
 - Preparations continued for next week's exercise and mass flu clinic.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Met with Goochland School District to discuss PanFlu planning.
 - Met with the new New Kent Emergency Manager to discuss PanFlu planning.
 - Final Preparation and coordination of FLUEx '06 exercise for Chickahominy with internal participants.
 - Attended Regional CRI meeting and met other Emergency Planners.
 - Continue orientation of PanFlu Coordinator
 - Polycom on PIO prep for FLUEx '06.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Director, Nurse Manager, Nurses, and Planner participated in a Remote Area Medical Exhibition in Grundy, Virginia to provide Pandemic Influenza (PanFlu) educational information, flu vaccine, immunizations, and medical operational support. The event logged 1,695 patient encounters.
- Planner distributed 43 invitations to partners in community health and emergency response organizations to participate in FluEX '06 Mass Dispensing Exercise on November 3, 2006.
- Planner met with local law enforcement personnel to provide pertinent pandemic flu handouts and contact information and to discuss the FluEX '06 exercise and traffic control for the FluEX '06 Mass Dispensing Site.
- Planner met with local Virginia Department of Transportation to discuss the FluEX '06 exercise and traffic precautions for the FluEX '06 Mass Dispensing Site locations.
- Planner met with two Department of Social Services offices to provide pertinent pandemic flu handouts and contact information and to discuss the FluEX '06 exercise and parking options for the participants and patients during the FluEX '06 Mass Dispensing Sites.
- Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner met to plan and coordinate the FluEX '06 exercise activities.

- **Fairfax**

- Flyer - "Be Scared? No. Be Prepared? Yes! How Families Can Prepare for Pandemic Flu" (defines pandemic flu, provides an outline of how to prepare, highlights resources available from Fairfax County, including the county's comprehensive pandemic flu Web page. Also directs readers to state and federal resources).
- Health Director gave PanFlu presentations at joint meeting of the Human Services Council and Health Care Advisory Board and to Herdon Town Council.
- Planning group met to discuss "Emergency Preparedness Summit for Long-Term Care Facilities" to be held in November; agenda includes a four-hour session on PanFlu planning.
- Director participated in Department of Education broadcast on pandemic flu that aired on public television (WETA) and on the State Health Department's close circuit TV feed. The program was re-aired on PBS on 10-18-06.
- Interviewed applicants for "PanFlu Coordinator."
- Multi-disciplinary (Patient Care Services and Medical Reserve Corps) PanFlu presentation delivered to the Mantua Civic Association.

- **Henrico**

- Henrico Health District continued to coordinate with County agencies on planning for November 4th mass vaccination exercise (Operation HEALTH). A final planning conference was conducted and the first press release was made.
- The Health Director provided a presentation of Pandemic Influenza preparedness to the Eastern Henrico Ruritans.
- Mass vaccination/dispensing training was provided to members of the Henrico Medical Reserve Corps.
- Planner and Director participated in the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) initial planning conference.

- **Lenowisco**

- Planner and Epidemiologist spoke to CERT team at MECC about pandemic flu drill and presented the VDH Pandemic Flu video.

- Planner met with the Region 4 State Agency Regional Team Meeting in Marion. Regional Planner did a presentation about pandemic flu.
- Planner and Epidemiologist involved local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in dispensing site drill. The AAA will send staff to participate.
- Epidemiologist met with EMS and was requested to provide EMSAT training.
- Planner and Epidemiologist received request to provide pandemic flu training for upcoming Virginia Association of Counties (VACo).
- Epidemiologist presented information about pandemic flu to the American Red Cross Board.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Planner met with Warren County Fire & Rescue to review and assist with their draft PanFlu plan.
 - Health Director presented a program on Avian Influenza Infections in Humans with discussion of PanFlu to the medical staff of Page Memorial Hospital.
 - District Planner is meeting with planning group for Valley Shield exercise (district PanFlu exercise), and with the National Park Service at their request to assist with planning for local National Park
 - Service programs within the Lord Fairfax Health District.
- **Mount Rogers**
 - Director and Epidemiologist presented PanFlu program for Grand Rounds at Johnston Memorial Hospital, Abingdon.
 - Epidemiologist presented PanFlu program to Rotary Club, Abingdon Va.
 - Epidemiologist presented information regarding PanFlu to the Washington Co. NEEDS Advisory board.
- **Norfolk**
 - Five public transit buses with full sided Pandemic Influenza theme posters are moving throughout Norfolk for three months. **(See attached slides)**
 - Norfolk Health District and its partners will be participating in the FLUEX 06 exercise through a tabletop on October 23 and 24, 2006.
 - The district epidemiologist continued discussion with nursing homes on pandemic influenza preparedness status.
 - The community health center will participate in respiratory fit testing of staff in collaboration with the health district as part of preparedness.
- **Peninsula**
 - The district exercised its mass immunization/point of dispensing capabilities at the Peninsula Health Center by holding two influenza vaccine mass clinics. Over 900 doses of influenza vaccine were administered. The two days of mass clinics provided an opportunity to refine clinic flow and operations and to demonstrate that the district has the capacity (personnel, logistics, and space) to handle a much larger volume of residents, if necessary. It was the first major district event in which Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers—38 over two days—worked closely with district staff to support a community event. The event received media coverage by two television stations (WAVY-10 and WTKR-3) and the Newport News City Channel.
 - Epidemiologist presented and answered questions on “Preparing for Pandemic Influenza” to 50+ healthcare infection control practitioners, laboratory staff, and nurses at the Riverside Health System’s Annual Infection Control Conference.
 - Director, immunization action plan nurse, MRC coordinator and district education coordinator taped a 25-minute program on “Preparing for Influenza.” The presentation included information on pandemic and avian influenza and steps that

- families and communities can take to prepare. The video was taped by the Newport News City Channel NNCC-48, which will make it available to the other jurisdictions in the district.
- Director postponed the in-the-community mass immunization exercise/event scheduled for October 24, because of the uncertainty regarding influenza vaccine availability. The event will be rescheduled for early November.
 - Director met with the medical director for Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding to orient the district director to the organization and to discuss communication, planning and preparedness for communicable disease outbreaks, including pandemic influenza.
 - **Piedmont**
 - District staff participated in a dispensing site drill at Hampden Sydney College. PanFlu presentations were made to the following groups:
 - Southside Community Hospital Board of Directors
 - Southside Community Hospital staff
 - 150 employees of Head Start in the District
 - Longwood University to District Childcare providers
 - **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator (PIE) trained member of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee (PDPIPC) to give Pandemic Influenza presentations to faith-based organizations.
 - PIE presented Pandemic Influenza preparedness information to the Danville Community College staff. Approx 51 attended.
 - PIE spoke to the kindergarten teachers of Kentuck Elementary School. Also spoke to approximately 100 kindergarten students about “Cover Your Cough” and “Proper Way to Wash Your Hands.” These signs will be posted in the kindergarten classrooms.
 - PIE spoke to staff at the Hatcher Center (Division of Danville Association of Retarded Citizens) about Pandemic Influenza. Approx. 40 attended.
 - PDPIPC met to discuss future plans for conducting a round table discussion of a Pandemic Influenza scenario involving all the PDPIPC members.
 - Pittsylvania County citizen, Robin Dockery, participated in the Department of Education’s “Ed News” television production as a citizen with school aged children who has prepared for Pandemic Influenza. The entire show can be viewed at <http://www.connectlive.com/events/ednews/>.
 - Planner is working on details for the POD exercise where the free influenza vaccine will be administered.
 - **Portsmouth**
 - District hosted a PanFlu Summit for all City of Portsmouth department heads to reiterate the importance of contingency planning at the departmental level. Over 40 people were in attendance.
 - **Prince William**
 - Planner participated in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Health Officials Committee Meeting. Discussion included Strategic Planning, Mass Fatalities Management, HIRA, alternative health care sites, and special needs populations.
 - Planner met with Rome Secure Representative to discuss alert network and response issues pertaining to an event that requires staff reporting and a response to a pandemic influenza.

- Drive-through Flu Clinic Planning Committee Meeting was held to discuss needs and responsibilities for November 4th, 2006 Flu Clinic to test an alternative method for the rapid distribution of medications or vaccines to citizens of the PWHD during an event.
- Planner met with Prince William County Department of Fire & Rescue to discuss Drive-through Flu Clinic.
- Planner met with City of Manassas Police Department, Safety Officer and MRC Coordinator to discuss Drive-through Flu Clinic.
- Planner attended MMRS meeting at the PWC EOC to finalize the purchase of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) pharmaceutical cache.
- Met with Disability Outreach Group to plan and coordinate the Circle of Hope Program. The Circle of Hope Program educates people with disabilities on emergency preparedness and influenza topics. During meeting it was also discussed special needs population backpacks.
- Met with community groups to plan and coordinate evacuation issues to plan for special needs populations.
- **Roanoke City / Alleghany**
 - Health Educator met with Virginia Western Community College and Roanoke College to discuss status of Pandemic Flu plans.
 - Health Educator met with Salem School System Director of Student Services and Salem Emergency Manager to discuss progress of PanFlu planning.
 - Planners, Epidemiologist and Health Educator met with Health Director to strategize Pandemic Flu planning efforts.
- **Southside**
 - Met twice with Brunswick County LEPC & EOC Coordinator re: mass flu Nov 3 exercise. Other detailed planning continues.
 - Continue working on brochure to all parents in three school systems about Infectious disease, hand washing and cough etiquette.
 - PanFlu presentation given to Brunswick County school nurses and teachers.
 - PanFlu funded health Educator hired and will start work on October 25.
 - Attended EP&R Polycom on state exercise.
 - Met with the Brunswick School nurses about the Mass vaccination clinic.
 - Working with HRH planner for the hospital surge exercise on 10/25. SHD Staff and MRC volunteers will go to staging site, get credentialed and badge as a test, and assist hospital staff set-up cots and other surge aspects of their plan.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Epidemiologist provided in-services for two shifts at Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital in Rocky Mount. The in-service presentation included the VDH-produced DVD and information about the current pandemic influenza threat and preparations.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist attended a meeting of the Henry-Martinsville Pandemic Influenza Planning Group. The group discussed the health department's dispensing site drill to be held in conjunction with the Statewide Exercise. In addition, the group provided recommendations for increasing public outreach.
 - District Emergency Planner attended Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance meeting in Blacksburg. The focus of the meeting was a demonstration of the WebEOC Internet System that will be used during the State Exercise next week.

- Emergency Planner taught Terrorism and Security Awareness Orientation (TSAO) courses to district staff. Nine district personnel were trained during these classes. More classes are scheduled.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Planner spoke with Suffolk Schools Superintendent regarding their upcoming PanFlu plan preparation and our willingness to help with development and review. Epidemiologist met with the assistant superintendent of Suffolk Schools, to (again) stress our willingness for education, help with planning, or any other PanFlu related issue that they may have.
 - Epidemiologist spoke with Obici's ICP regarding PanFlu planning for the hospital. Epidemiologist has volunteered to join the committee they have put together for PanFlu planning.
 - New MRC Director was brought up to speed regarding the federal, state, and local PanFlu plans. She will later hold orientations with her volunteers and will include a PanFlu segment.